

# AMERICAN PIONEER.

Devoted to the Truth and Justice of History.

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## MIAMI UNIVERSITY.

[See Frontispiece.]

It cannot fail to interest the lover of American prosperity to trace the rise and progress of the means of education, not only in the West, but in the whole Union. It would be a delightful task for us to be enabled to do for other institutions of learning what Mr. Naylor has enabled us to do for the Miami University.

*Oxford, Ohio, April 26, 1842.*

MR. EDITOR,—In compliance with a recent request, you have promptly furnished me with the numbers of the "American Pioneer," the perusal of which I find to be both entertaining and instructive. I am much pleased with the plan and object of the Pioneer. Such a periodical was greatly needed, and I sincerely hope that you will be amply rewarded for your pains and labor, by receiving a liberal patronage, such as your valuable periodical deserves. And if we love our country; if we know the value of liberty, and remember what it cost; if we feel any sentiments of gratitude to, and wish to cherish and perpetuate the memory of our patriot fathers, to whom we are so much indebted for both civil and religious liberty, surely we will be willing to contribute our mite to sustain and promote so praise-worthy an object. As you propose collecting and publishing facts relative to the state and progress of literature in the West, as well as other subjects, I thought perhaps a few historical facts would be acceptable to the readers of the "Pioneer," relative to the origin and rapid progress of

## MIAMI UNIVERSITY,

located at Oxford, Butler county, Ohio. For most of the following facts, I acknowledge my obligations to Charles Anderson, Esq., of Dayton, Ohio.

The first thing which attracts the attention of one reviewing the history of this institution, is that the original design of those who gave life to this university, was part of a great national scheme for the settlement and civilization of the great North Western Territory. Although many of our fathers enjoyed but little education, yet they

knew its value ; they knew, and acted upon the principle, that "learning is power," and that an intelligent and virtuous people will not lose their liberties : neither can an ignorant and degraded people preserve them. Therefore we need not think it strange, that the first emigrants to these western wilds should desire to make provision for the moral and intellectual culture of their posterity, and that they considered this object worthy of the nation's liberality. It is to the benevolence and beneficence of those philanthropic "pioneers," who first opened these dense forests to the light of the sun, that we are indebted for the radiations of literature, science and religion which we, their children, enjoy.

As early as 1787, the congress of the confederation passed an order to secure to the uses of learning, certain portions of the public lands.

In the same year, John Cleves Symmes petitioned congress to sell to him and his associates, all the land between the two Miamies, from the Ohio river northward, to a specified line. After some altercations in September, 1794, president Washington, by the authority of a previous act of congress, conveyed to Symmes and Co., by patent, so much land, as, by the fixed bounds before mentioned, and by such a north line, as, within them, would contain three hundred and eleven thousand six hundred and eighty-two acres of land at sixty-six cents per acre. In this patent, the president stipulated that one entire township of land, to be located, with the consent of the governor of the North West Territory, as near as might be to the centre of the tract conveyed to Symmes and Co., should be held in trust, for the exclusive purpose of erecting and establishing therein an academy, and other public seminaries of learning.

But from too long neglect on the part of the settlers, or from some other cause, the township could not be obtained within said purchase, for the above named purposes ; whereupon, the territorial legislature passed a resolution, September 16, 1799, instructing general William Henry Harrison, then the delegate to congress for the North West Territory, to endeavor to procure from congress other lands, in lieu of those sold by Symmes. This effort proved unsuccessful. A similar application was again made by the convention which formed the state constitution, through their agent, general T. Worthington, to which congress favorably responded. Another township was granted, to be selected from any of the unsold lands in the state of Ohio, within the district of Cincinnati, to be subject to a reversion to the United States, provided that within five years from the passage of the act, a township should have been secured, situated as originally

contemplated, within the bounds of the purchase of Symmes, which was never accomplished. Whereupon, the Ohio legislature, on April 15, 1803, appointed Jeremiah Morrow, Jacob White and William Ludlow commissioners to locate the township. On the 1st September, 1803, these gentlemen selected and entered those lands now held by the institution, containing twenty-three thousand three hundred and twenty-one acres.

On the 17th of February, 1809, the legislature of Ohio formally established the MIAMI UNIVERSITY, by a charter which created the offices of the trustees and of the faculty, appointed the former, defines their duties and regulates the government of the lands, funds, and of the institution itself. These preliminaries being settled, some difficulty arose with regard to the location of the college, some wanting it near, others, at some distance from the college lands.

But this matter was soon settled, by the interposition of the legislature, which directed the trustees to lay out a town, and to locate the site within the university lands. The trustees met accordingly at Hamilton, in March, 1810; passed an ordinance regulating the leasing of the lands, and made the location where the university now stands, one of the most eligible, beautiful and salubrious points within the district or country. Such are the principal facts relative to the early history of the institution. The lands and lots were leased by January 20, 1820, at six per cent. on minimum prices, varying from two dollars and fifty cents to eight dollars per acre; all since reduced to three dollars per acre.

The quit-rents amount to five thousand and two dollars and four cents, or to six per cent. on a principal of eighty-four thousand dollars.

In 1811 and 1812, one hundred and sixty dollars were appropriated for the purpose of erecting a large school house on the college square. In 1812 two acres were cleared at an expense of twenty-five dollars, for a site for the university. Another story was afterwards added to the school house, and it was fitted up for a mansion for the president, at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars. On the 21st of October, 1817, a committee was appointed to prepare materials for building a wing to the college, forty by fifty-six feet. This is now "Franklin Hall,"—it was completed in 1818, at a cost of six thousand one hundred and sixty-seven dollars.

Centre building, eighty-six by sixty feet, was begun in 1820 and completed in 1823, at a cost of twenty-three thousand dollars.

Clinton and Washington halls, commenced in 1828, were finished in 1829, one hundred by forty feet, at a cost of eight thousand five hundred dollars. The southeast hall, commenced in 1834, one hun-

dred by forty feet, was completed in 1835, at a cost of nine thousand five hundred dollars. The trustees bought a house for the president at one thousand five hundred dollars.

In 1838 a laboratory, forty by twenty-four feet, was built, for fifteen hundred dollars; making the building expenses in all, not far from fifty-two thousand dollars.

In October, 1817, fifteen hundred dollars were appropriated for one or more professors of languages and mathematics, to commence their duties on the first of May, 1818.

The tuition fee was established at five dollars the session, including room rent, fuel, &c.

In April, 1818, the tuition fee was raised to ten dollars, and the salary of a tutor to a grammar school so altered, that he was to have one half the tuition fees, five hundred dollars out of the treasury, and a dwelling house rent free. In June, 1818, the Rev. James Hughes was appointed tutor of the grammar school, which he accepted, and entered upon his duties in November of the same year; and alternate vacations of three weeks each, were established for April and October, every year. In April, 1821, Mr. Hughes resigned his seat, and the institution stopped business for a time. In July, 1824, the board proceeded to organize the faculty, and to appoint other professors. The Rev. R. H. Bishop, D. D., (vice president and professor of natural philosophy in Transylvania University,) was elected president, with a salary of one thousand dollars, and William Sparrow, teacher of languages, with a salary of five hundred dollars. In September, 1824, John E. Annan of Baltimore, was elected professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, with a salary of seven hundred dollars. The college was regularly opened for the reception of students, on the 15th of November, 1824. On the 30th of March, 1825, the president (Dr. Bishop) was inaugurated in the presence of a large and much interested audience.

William Sparrow was then elected professor of languages; and in March, 1826, he having resigned his seat, William H. M'Guffey, of Washington college, Pa., was chosen to supply his place, with a salary of six hundred dollars. In September, 1825, the grammar school was established; J. P. Williston was appointed principal, at a salary of five hundred dollars. He was succeeded by J. P. Vandyke and J. S. Weaver. In March, 1829, W. F. Ferguson was elected to the office. W. W. Robertson followed him, and *he* was since succeeded by R. H. Bishop, Jr., A. M., who still occupies that station.

In September, 1828, the chair of professor Annan became vacant, which was filled in March following, by the election of J. W. Scott,



A. M., of Washington college, Pa. In September, 1832, owing to the increasing number of students, and consequently the increased amount of labor required on the part of the teachers, it was deemed expedient to create two new professorships. Accordingly J. W. Scott was promoted to the chair of natural philosophy and chemistry, and W. H. M'Guffey to that of philology and mental science, each with a salary of eight hundred and fifty dollars, and S. W. McCracken and Thomas Armstrong, (deceased) both graduates of the institution, were elected to the professorships of languages and mathematics.

After the death of professor Armstrong in 1835, A. T. Bledsoe, of Kenyon college, was elected in his place. In 1836, professors M'Guffey and Bledsoe resigned their seats, and in 1837 they were again filled by the election of Rev. John McArthur, A. M., of Cadiz, Ohio, as professor of Greek and Rhetoric, and Chauncy N. Olds as professor of Latin and Hebrew. In August, 1840, Dr. Bishop, the venerable and much loved president, signified his willingness to retire from the presidency.

His resignation was accepted, and a new professorship of history and political science was created, to which Dr. Bishop was elected, with a salary of six hundred and fifty dollars, and a house, rent free. I. C. Young, D. D., president of Centre college, Ky., was elected as the successor of Dr. Bishop, and upon his not accepting the appointment, the Rev. George Junkin, D. D., president of Lafayette college, Pa., was elected to the presidency of Miami University, which he accepted. He entered upon the duties of his office on the 12th of April, 1841, and on the 11th of August following he was inaugurated in the presence of a large assembly. In 1841, professors McCracken and Olds resigned their seats, which were again filled by the election of John Armstrong, A. M. and J. C. Moffat in their stead. The faculty is now full and stands as follows, viz: George Junkin, D. D., president, and professor of mental and moral philosophy, political economy and evidences of Christianity; R. H. Bishop, D. D., professor of history and political science; J. W. Scott, A. M., professor of natural philosophy, astronomy and chemistry; John M'Arthur, A. M., professor of Grecian literature and rhetoric; John Armstrong, A. M., professor of mathematics and civil engineering; J. C. Moffat, A. M., professor of Roman literature; R. H. Bishop, Jr., A. M., master of the preparatory department.

The literary societies are of great value to the institution. They are three in number.

The Erodolphian Society was organized November 9, 1825. The Union Literary Society, December 14, 1835. The Miami Hall,

May 22, 1833. The libraries and furniture of the first two societies are estimated at more than five thousand dollars each.

The libraries connected with the institution, together, contains more than seven thousand volumes.

That of the college contains about	-	-	-	3,000
" Erodelphian Society	-	-	-	1,500
" Union Literary Society	-	-	-	1,700
" Miami Hall	-	-	-	1,100
" Missionary Society	-	-	-	400
Total	-	-	-	7,700

These are well-selected and valuable books, in every department of useful knowledge.

The following table contains a synopsis of the number of students and graduates in each year since the institution was organized.

Classes.	Years.	Whole No. of Students.	Alumni.
1st.	1824	20	
2nd.	1825	95	
3rd.	1826	119	12
4th.	1827	144	9
5th.	1828	152	11
6th.	1829	129	10
7th.	1830	153	10
8th.	1831	192	17
9th.	1832	163	12
10th.	1833	228	22
11th.	1834	238	22
12th.	1835	207	27
13th.	1836	186	22
14th.	1837	167	28
15th.	1838	227	21
16th.	1839	250	32
17th.	1840	196	25
18th.	1841	164	28
Total in 18 years,		3030	308

This shows, that during the eighteen years which have elapsed since the university has been in operation, an average number of one hundred and sixty-eight students have been in regular attendance.

Men who have been educated at this institution, are now in all parts of the United States, in every department of society, and pursuing every laudable calling. More than sixty of her alumni are now engaged in the practice of the law; and more than eighty are successfully employed as watchmen upon the walls of Zion. The influence of Miami University has already been extensively felt for good in the South and West; and who can tell the amount of good that may yet result from it, to the favored inhabitants of this

beautiful and fruitful valley. May she continue to prosper; and may similar institutions be multiplied in our land, until our nation shall be distinguished among the nations of the earth, not only for freedom of thought and action, but also for universal intelligence and sound morality.

*A. R. Baylors*

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[Communicated for the American Pioneer.]

#### ANECDOTES OF JESSE HUGHS, PIONEER CUSTOMS, ETC.

AT a time when the Indians were still occasionally committing depredations on the settlements in the neighborhood of Clarksburg, in Virginia, Hughs and one of his neighbors having business on the Ohio, agreed to go together; and, as the saying is, to kill two birds with one stone, they concluded to make a hunting expedition of it. Hughs was bred up an Indian fighter. There was perhaps no man that better understood the Indian character, or their sagacity in warfare; neither was there any man less fearless in danger, yet no one was more cautious or knew better how to avoid exposure. He proposed to his companion to take a different route from any that the Indians had been in the habit of traveling. This his friend thought rather an unnecessary precaution, as there were no Indians then known or suspected to be on the southeast side of the Ohio river; but yielding to the better judgment of Hughs, they set out by a new route, traveled slowly and killed what game they could, leaving their skins to take home with them on their return. On the second or third evening after leaving home, they struck up their camp in time to prepare and eat their supper before nightfall.

Here I will make a small digression by giving a short description of camping in the woods in those days, as well as a description of the costume or dress worn by most of the male pioneers. A place for a camp was selected as near water as convenient. A fire was kindled by the side of the largest suitable log that could be procured. The ground was preferred to be somewhat side-lying, so that they might lie with the feet to the fire and the head up hill. The common mode of preparing a repast, was by sharpening a stick at both ends and sticking one end in the ground before the fire and their meat on the other end. This stick could be turned round, or the meat on it, as occasion required. Sweeter roast meat than such as is prepared in this manner no epicure of Europe ever tasted. Bread, when

they had flour to make it of, was either baked under the ashes or the dough rolled in long rolls and wound round a stick like that prepared for roasting meat, and managed in the same way. Scarce any one who has not tried it, can imagine the sweetness and gusto of such a meal, in such a place, at such a time. French mustard, or their thousand and one contrivances (condiments) to make victuals go down without an appetite, are all nothing to this.

The pioneer's dress consisted principally of a tow linen shirt and pantaloons, manufactured by their wives, daughters and female friends. The remainder was nearly all of buckskin, killed with their guns and dressed by their own hands. Their moccasins fitted the foot neatly, and dry oak leaves mostly supplied the place of socks or stockings. Above these a pair of buckskin leggins, or gaiters, made to fit the leg and tie in at the ankle with the moccasins. These extended some distance above the knees, and a strap from the upper part extending up and buttoning to the hip of the pantaloons. These leggins were a defence against rattlesnakes, briars, nettles, &c. In cutting these leggins, or gaiters, there was a surplus left on the outside, at the outer seam. This surplus was left from one to two inches in width, which, after the seam was sewed, was cut into an ornamental fringe. The hunting shirt comes next. It too was made of dressed buckskin, and in the same way ornamented with the fringe down the outside of the arms, around the collar, cape, belt and tail, and sometimes down the seams under the arms, or even other parts; for from the hunter in the woods to the belle in the city, fashions reign and rule the human mind more than we are sometimes willing to own; and as we see in palaces, so in the woods these ornaments on the buckskin hunting shirts were carried to excess by those among the pioneers whose tastes were less refined.

Habited in this manner, the pioneers, or frontier settlers as they were called, thought themselves quite sufficiently equipped to attend church, go to a wedding, quilting, or visit their sweethearts, and even to get married: and under such circumstances, a new hunting shirt, leggins and moccasins had the same charms to draw forth the loving looks and the sweet smiles of the lassies then, as the long tailed blues, the dandy dress, or the glittering uniform now; and they were not a whit the less appreciated by the laddies, coming from rosy lassies in linsey wolsey, or perhaps partly in buckskin, than they are now after they have passed lines of silks, laces and artificials. Men who have been reared in this manner, and the mothers of whose children were wooed and wedded in this way, I have known afterwards to occupy some of the highest stations in the gift of their fellow citizens.



Such was the equipment of the hero of our narrative and his friend. As was customary, they took off their moccasins to dry. The gaiters and hunting shirt was usually taken off and placed under the head of the owner to supply the place of a pillow. A huntsman without a dog would have been considered an anomaly. Such an one, faithful and well trained, Hughs and his friend had with them. At dusk they began to make some preparations for laying down by unbuttoning the leggins at the hips and loosing their belts. Hughs discovered his dog was not satisfied, and that he became very restless. He would advance a few steps in a certain direction, snuff and scent the air, and frequently give a low stifled growl. This excited Hughs' suspicion, which made him decline undressing any further, and to buckle up his belt again; but unfortunately, as it might seem from the sequel, he forgot to button the straps of his leggins to the hips of his pantaloons. After watching his dog for some time, he named it to his friend, and said he was fearful there were Indians about. His friend thought it hardly possible, for they had discovered no Indian signs, nor heard the crack of any rifle but their own. He thought they could not be discovered. This reasoning did not dispel Hughs' doubts. The dog's uneasiness increased. Hughs told his friend that they had better leave the camp a small distance and watch it; that if there were Indians, as he really expected, they would break on the camp as soon as they supposed they had got asleep, or at day-break in the morning; by watching the camp at a small distance, they would have an opportunity to kill two Indians at least, and then of making their escape if necessary. Nothing could induce his friend to believe that there was any danger, and he refused to leave the camp. Hughs then told him that he would not leave him alone, but they must sleep on their arms and be ready for any emergency that might happen. To this his friend agreed. Hughs and his dog had a poor night's rest; and as soon as day began fairly to break, the dog broke out into a furious bark. They both sprang to their feet at the same instant that a volley of rifle shots was poured in upon them. Hughs' friend fell dead on the spot, but himself received no injury except a bullet hole or two through his hunting shirt. He took to his heels with a whole posse of Indians close after him, happily for him, with empty guns. At first he out-ran them with ease, but his loosened leggins slipped down about his ankles and at length got over his feet and hampered him so much, that the Indians began to gain fast on him. He found he must get clear of his leggins or lose his scalp. This he was not quite ready for, and straining every nerve, he ascended a ridge and a little over the top he stopped, and alternately

setting his feet on his leggins tore them off. By this time the Indians had got nearly within tomahawk distance of him. Relieved of this embarrassment, he again set off at the top of his speed and soon gained a safe distance. In passing over the top of the next high ridge he gave a loud shout of triumph, well understood by the Indians, who gave up the chase, and let him make for home at his leisure.

Thus terminated this unfortunate trip. Hughs providentially escaped with his life and the loss of his friend. This might not only have been prevented but turned to the advantage of the whites, had Hughs been able to prevail on his less experienced and more unfortunate friend to leave the camp, from his apprehensions of danger.

*Indian Creek Farm, near Chillicothe, June 4, 1842.*

*S. J. Penick*

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#### POLITICAL CONTEST OF 1799.

It agrees with the intentions of the American Pioneer to bring forward sketches of early history ; but when pieces of that sort are introduced, which seem to have little or no use, an apology for the act is not inappropriate ; and when the piece, like that which follows, may be viewed as having an evil influence, some introductory sentiments become almost indispensably necessary.

To love and support our political institutions as a patriotic people ought, we must have confidence that they are based upon the true principles of government, so far at least as to be capable, under all common occurrences, of being so improved and adjusted as will ensure their permanency. We have but to pay attention to the common political parlance of Americans, to be convinced that there is no lack of the love of a republican form of government, and that there is a want of confidence in the permanency of our institutions. This lack of confidence has a deleterious effect upon our actions, for without confidence men lose their energies, and fall a prey to any power capable of operating upon them. The introduction of the following piece is intended to show that the gross irregularities which are at this day so frequent in political contests, whether in bar-rooms or in the halls of congress, although reprehensible in the actors, are but a repetition of former scenes, and by no means indicative that our political institutions want sufficient basis to ensure permanency. History informs us that since the struggle of 1799-1800, there presided a no-party-president, (James Monroe) and that in 1820, such political apathy existed, that in many places no presidential election was held. In short, that president at his second election scarcely received votes enough to elect a constable. The government in 1799 and 1800, was like the earth at

the perihelium of her orbit. In its perihelium its motion is more rapid, and seemingly in more danger of falling upon the sun. In 1820, she was in her aphelium, her motion slow, and the danger of going off into regions of eternal cold and darkness was equally great. Since that she has again approached or passed her perihelium. So far these periods seem to be about twenty years.

Descartes has demonstrated that the permanency of the planetary system depends upon the *irregularity* of all planetary motion. He has shown us that were the motions of the earth and planets in their orbits *perfectly* regular, all would inevitably perish. Lest some of our readers may not see the force of this, we will indulge a moment in explanation. Any one may conceive that a perfect *balance* of opposite forces is equal to no force. For instance, suppose a planet equal in size and weight to our earth, to be suspended between two suns, so that the attraction of one shall be exactly equal to the attraction of the other, it is easy to see that it would remain at rest, but that the force of a child's hand applied to one side or the other, would cause its destruction, by addition to the force of one, and subtraction from the other; and the effect would be its destruction by falling on that sun toward which the child impelled it. But if that planet so balanced had but a vibratory motion, say of one tenth of an inch only, and power to maintain it, the force necessary to produce that vibration would be, say equal to the power of ten thousand children. In this case, 9,999 children all pushing one way, would not be sufficient to throw it out of its vibratory plane. But to make it more familiar, suppose a boat or vessel of any magnitude in perfectly still water; see what little force will move it! Suppose it to be perfectly balanced between two currents as we sometimes see pieces of drift wood, a child might push it in favor of one current or other, down a cataract to its total destruction; but if that vessel has but a vibratory motion creating an amount of force equal to ten men, nine could not produce its destruction.

We will familiarize a little further: suppose a boy's spinning-top or a dancing-button on a lady's work stand, had a perfectly regular motion, it is easy to see that there would be a perfect balance of power on all sides, and there would be no more power applied to keep it erect, than there is in one perfectly still. It is impossible to produce a *perfectly* regular motion, and the irregularity of the motion causes the force applied to turn it, to be exerted in favor of keeping it erect, for it is always falling, which the whirling force acts against. Were it possible to remove all the resistance of the atmosphere and friction at the pivot, the top or button would revolve forever without the least danger of upsetting; and it is only when the propelling force is so diminished by resistance, that the irregularity exceeds the remainder, that the top or button will completely fall. Just so in the motion of the earth. The force which would be necessary to make the earth vibrate (without orbicular motion,) equal to the distance from the perihelium to the aphelium, is exactly the amount necessary to produce those results with orbicular motion. This

is incomparably less than the amount of force which causes the orbicular motion, and until the vibrating force shall equal the projectile force, there is no danger of the earth leaving her orbit by means of the vibratory motion which causes the perihelia and aphelia. This vibratory force is also incomparably greater than all the disturbing forces applied by other planets, comets, &c., for their tendency to disturb is irregular and tends to balance itself. Hence they can never produce destruction. Take away the earth's projectile force, and the vibratory force would destroy it. Take this away, and the disturbance of planets, comets, &c. would destroy it. The projectile force, great as it is, has not of itself the least power to counteract the smallest disturbance from another planet or comet, which, small as it might be, by producing a regular enlargement or diminution of the earth's orbit, would end disastrously; but the vibratory force being millions times greater than the disturbing force, no danger ensues. It is plain to see that a perfectly regular circular motion would be by the smallest impulse changed to a spiral motion, either enlarging or contracting, but an elliptical motion could not be changed to a spiral motion without power sufficient to make a circle of, it be first applied.

Republicanism or the love of our institutions is the projectile force, partyism or love of party is the vibratory motion, and the influence of other institutions upon us is the disturbance of other planets. Take away republicanism, and partyism would destroy us. Take away partyism, and the regular influence of other institutions would in time so change our views, and diminish or enlarge our republican feeling, that we would fall upon the sun in consolidation, or go out into the unknown regions of perfect agrarianism.

The following piece extracted from a valuable work purchased by the editor of the Pioneer from the library of Thomas Jefferson, is a beautiful and historical illustration of these principles. In that debate, or rather quarrel, wherein the real states of the parties are shown without reserve, the love of our institutions, love of party and foreign influence are shown conspicuously to be subject, the less to the greater and better, in such immense differences as to insure the safety of republican principles embraced in our blessed form of government. Who cannot see that love of our own government reigned triumphantly in the breasts of both disputants, and that the love of party, (easily mistaken for love of country, as the earth's orbit might be mistaken by superficial observers for a circle,) condemned and destroyed foreign influence in each other. All our political quarrels are seen by an attentive observer to be of this sort, and to contain preserving principles in good proportion.

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#### THE SPIRIT OF POLITICAL CONVERSATION.

*Written in 1799.*

I WENT lately into the company of two persons, whom I will call Tom and Harry, talking very loudly upon politics. The debate, as usual, had proceeded from argument to sarcasm, and from raillery to railing, and went on somewhat in this style :



*Tom.* Yes, your party aims at nothing but to overthrow the present government.

*Harry.* The very purpose of the villanous faction whom we fight against.

*T.* To throw us all into anarchy, and deliver us over to a Robespierrian usurpation.

*H.* And who's to blame, if that falls out, merely from our struggles to prevent you from establishing a titled and hereditary despotism, well known to be the dearest wish of your hearts, and the end of all your labors?

*T.* For that you wish to cement us, by alliances and treaties of fraternity, with the horrid and inexorable French.

*H.* The only expedient we have left to elude the effects of *your* unnatural and traitorous devotion to Britain.

*T.* But no wonder you act as traitors to your country, and as tools and sycophants of France. Power is the bribe held forth to you; and, to reign is worth your ambition, though as slaves and puppets of a foreign power.

*H.* Whereas you more wisely content yourself with money, and will barter the freedom of your country for a much safer consideration. Gold, British gold, is the spell that binds *you*.

*T.* A pack of knaves! cajoling the people by lies and stratagems! and laboring to build up your private fortunes, profligate and bankrupt as you are, upon the ruins of your country!

*H.* Better knaves than fools, say I: better pursue measures by which a few shall prosper, than, like you, to embrace those by which all shall perish in common. The knave promotes his own interest, at least, but the fool partakes himself of the ruin which he heaps upon others. Ye are blind guides, that fall first into the ditch into which you lead others. Sampsons, that, in order to destroy your enemies, pull the house upon your own heads.

*T.* Not content with warring against all political order, ye labor, with a diabolical zeal, to destroy the very *names* of morals and religion.

*H.* Whereas you are contented merely with abolishing the *things*. You leave us to console ourselves with the name, but take care that the substance shall be exchanged for bigotry, intolerance, and superstition.

*T.* cursers of God ye are, and tools of the devil!

*H.* Fit companions, if so, for the enemies of man, and the victims of their own folly.

*T.* Ungrateful scoundrels, that, if I had my will, should all be shipped off to-morrow to your respective countries, where your crimes have already merited the gallows. What are you but the refuse of Europe, fugitives from states where your restless malignity strove in vain against wholesome order, and vipers who sting to death that bosom which gave you an asylum!

*H.* Fit companions, once more say I, for those impious monopolists who deny us the rights of human nature; because, forsooth, we were not *born* among you. More savage, you, than those savage tribes with whom every stranger is an enemy; for, with you, it seems, every *guest* is a *slave*!

*T.* How dare you abuse the government that fosters and protects you; by whose indulgent influence you are *what* you are; and which, if your ingratitude were treated as it merits, would reduce you in a moment to the beggary and dirt from whence you sprung!

*H.* I can't tell. I wonder at my own audacity as much as you. For a slave like me to pretend to question the will of one who has my life, liberty, and property in his own hand, and may kill or banish me just as caprice shall prompt him, is a rashness truly surprising. To supplicate his mercy, to pamper his arrogance, to confess that his power over me is no more than simple equity, that I have no shadow of pretence to aspire to an equality with him, to take an equal share in the government of myself and my fellows, is by far the safest way.

*T.* I understand your irony. And so you would insinuate that you have a right to enter my house, to claim a seat at my table, and share the possession of my wife and children, would you? *That* is one of the rights of human nature, is it? All exclusive property, all household and conjugal privileges, are arrant tyranny and usurpation, I warrant you. Maxims worthy of those who are at once rebels to their country and their God.

*H.* Rebels let us be as long as we are ruled by tyrants.

*T.* Atheists!

*H.* Hypocrites!

*T.* Liars!

*H.* Dissemblers!

*T.* Vile, bloody-minded jacobins!

*H.* Proud, detestable aristocrats!

*T.* How dare you, rascal, use such terms?

*H.* Your humble imitator, sir, am I; I dare do all, as the poet *might have said*, that other rascals dare.

*T.* Do you call me rascal, sir?

*H.* No, sir; I *miscal* you gentleman, that's all.

*T.* Take that, sir (*kicking*.)

*H.* And, to be out of your debt, take *that*, sir (*striking*.)

Having little relish for this species of debate, and other persons being present to see *fair play*, I hastily withdrew. This being a pretty good specimen of the fashionable political conversation, I have amused myself by giving you this account of it, which, I hope, may likewise amuse some of your readers.

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#### EARLY INCIDENTS OF BUFFALO—BUFFALO HARBOR.

##### NUMBER V.

AFTER ascertaining the distance to which it would be necessary to extend the pier, and estimating the cost of completing it, the continuous line was abandoned, and it was resolved to lay down a pier two hundred feet long, several rods south and west of the pier already built, but in the same direction. This pier would form the western

termination of the harbor, and was to be connected with the other by two lines of piles eight feet apart. As these lines of piles would be at right angles with the course of the waves, it was believed the work would be sufficiently permanent, and would furnish a good and cheap substitute for a pier. Both pile-driving and pier work were commenced, and prosecuted with a vigor and economy suited to the scanty funds of the company.

It was found much more difficult to erect piers in ten or twelve feet water, than in the more shallow water in which they were put down the preceding year. In attempting to put down the first crib which was to form the eastern end of the block, in about ten feet water, the current was found so strong that it was impossible to keep the brush in line on which to place the crib. To obviate this difficulty, piles were driven ten feet apart on the north line of the proposed pier. This not only secured the brush, but served as a guide in putting down the cribs, which for this block were forty feet long, twenty feet wide at the bottom, and eighteen at the surface of the water. In addition to the plan adopted for strengthening the cribs the preceding year, braces of oak timber, three by six inches, and extending from the bottom to the top of the crib, were let into the timbers composing the windward side of each crib, and secured by spikes, as the crib was put down. The quantity of brush was also increased. Two large scow loads were used as a bed for each crib. These, besides securing the crib from being undermined, aided by their elasticity, in resisting the force of the swells.

A slight rise in the creek about the middle of July, encouraged a hope that by a temporary contraction of the channel, it might be deepened. About fifty of the citizens volunteered their aid for a day, and a foot of additional depth was gained.

One difficulty attending the pier work was that of procuring a supply of stone. About twenty cords were required for each crib, but little of which could be put in until the crib was all put together, and this quantity could not always be obtained at the time it was wanted. The loose stone easily raised from the reefs near the harbor, had already been used, and now stone had to be brought from the Canada shore. Boats were scarce, the price paid for stone was so low, (only about three dollars per cord,) and the quantity required so small, that there was no encouragement to build suitable boats, and those used were of the frailest kind, and liable every day to fail.

The pile work proved to be a tedious and difficult job. An average of a hundred strokes of the hammer was required for each pile. The interruption from the swells made it necessary to work at night

during calm weather. The pile work was at length completed, but when secured in the best manner that could be devised, was a very imperfect barrier to the swell, and a very poor substitute for a pier. The swells during gales of wind had removed some of the stones out of the first pier, these were recovered, the pier filled up, and covered by ties six inches apart let into the top timbers, and secured by trunnels. The outer pier was also filled with some stone and covered in the same way, and fifty cords of stone were deposited on the windward side for its greater security.

Thus was completed the first work of the kind ever constructed on the lakes. It had occupied two hundred and twenty-one working days in building, (the laborers always resting on the Sabbath,) and extended into the lake about eighty rods to twelve feet water. It was begun, carried on and completed principally by three private individuals, some of whom mortgaged the whole of their real estate to raise the means for making an improvement in which they had but a common interest. And now, although but twenty years have elapsed, these sacrifices and efforts, and even the fact that such a work ever existed, are unknown to most of the citizens of Buffalo, who have only seen the magnificent stone pier erected at a cost of over two hundred thousand dollars. But should the names of those who projected and constructed the first pier be remembered, for a few years, yet the subordinate actors by whose faithful labors the drudgery of this work was accomplished, must remain unknown even to those who enjoy the immediate fruits of their labor in wealth and luxury. Their names would be inserted here, but that the time book being kept with a pencil, and having been frequently wet, has become in part illegible. Simon and Clark Burdock and Charles Ayres, deserve special notice, and should either of these men, or any of the others engaged on the work, wish to take passage on the lake, it is hoped that any steamboat captain hailing from Buffalo, would give them a free passage. There is a debt of gratitude due to the laborers on Buffalo harbor for their extraordinary faithfulness. They were all farmers, or the sons of farmers from the adjoining country, whose necessity for money brought them from their homes. Some of them engaged at the commencement of the work, and were never absent from it a day until it was finished; and such were their steady habits, that but one case of intoxication occurred, and not a single instance in which a jar or misunderstanding proceeded to blows. The laborers either individually or as a company never shrunk from exposure, nor hesitated to turn out at night when required, and their work was



performed with such faithfulness that not a single timber was lost from the pier.

The company were equally fortunate in their boatmen. The two stone contractors contributed much to the successful prosecution and completion of the harbor, often running their boats at night when stone was required; and in more than one instance, their extraordinary exertions preserved portions of the work from destruction, and saved the company from great loss.

Sloan and Olmstead were the names of these hard-weather men—and those only who have experienced the difficulties of making improvements in a new country, with means and facilities wholly inadequate to the object to be accomplished, can justly appreciate the worth of such men.

James Sloan was first known as a salt boatman on Niagara river in 1807 or 8, was a hand on board the boat *Independence*, and had only left her the day before she, with all on board, was carried over the Niagara falls. He was a lake boatman until some time after the commencement of the war. He volunteered in various hazardous expeditions, was one of the party who cut out the brig *Adams* at Fort Erie—commanded the ammunition boat during the siege of that fort, and had several marvelous escapes from shot and rockets. After the war he removed to the west, but returned shortly before the commencement of Buffalo harbor, and took as deep an interest in the progress of the work as if it had been his own private business. He has been rich and poor several times, has endured more fatigue, and performed more labor than most men of his age. Few persons know so much of men and things generally as he does, and no one is more liberal, benevolent and honest.

N. K. Olmstead, though quite a different character from Sloan, was a man of unusual muscular power and remarkable courage and resolution. He was a citizen of Buffalo before the war. His property had been burnt by the British; and when peace was concluded between the two governments, not considering himself a party to the treaty, he determined to make reprisals. In pursuance of this determination, he soon managed to get a contract to transport, from Chippewa to Fort Erie, British army stores, among which were several kegs of specie. He brought his load to the American side of the river, and hid the goods and money, waiting a favorable opportunity to remove them. The boatmen stole a part, and the vigilance of the officers who made pursuit recovered most of the balance. Olmstead retired from the frontier for a time, but in 1819 returned to Buffalo. When the harbor was commenced, he engaged as a stone-boatman,

and in the varied and severe labor required upon the work, perhaps no man in the country could have equalled him. After stones became scarce upon the reef, all the other boats resorted to the Canada shore, where they were abundant. Olmstead soon ventured to go over. The first few trips he carried a loaded pistol and a fish spear, but not being molested his apprehensions ceased. He was admonished not to risk himself, but he continued his trips, and perhaps would not have been noticed but for his resisting a demand made by the deputy collector for a clearance fee of fifty cents each load. Soon afterwards he was seized and hurried on board a large boat, which immediately put out for Chippewa. It was not deemed necessary to confine him. There was a small skiff in tow with a paddle in it. Olmstead resolved to possess himself of it, and make for the American shore, resolved to risk going over the falls rather than remain a prisoner. When taken he had concealed his jack knife in his shoe, which he got ready for use, and when the boat was near Chippewa sprang on board the skiff, cut the fast, and pushed his skiff into the current. Using his paddle, he directed his course to the American shore. By extraordinary efforts he made one of the grass islands, where he rested, got out of the skiff, and towed it up the river as far as he could wade, expecting that a boat would put out from the American side for his relief; but none appearing, and discovering one putting out from the Chippewa side in pursuit, he took to his skiff, and succeeded in landing in Porter's mill race, at the falls. The next morning he resumed his work upon the harbor, to the no small gratification of the workmen, with all of whom he was a great favorite.

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## NUMBER VI.

THE pier was completed, and the creek carried by a new and straight, although shallow, channel into the lake.

The fact that the pier built in 1820 had endured the storms of one winter uninjured, encouraged the company to believe that the outer pier, although more exposed, would, by being better secured, prove strong enough to resist the swells, and in future protect the channel from the moving sands which had yearly barred it up. It was expected that the spring freshet would so widen and deepen the channel as to permit the lake vessels and even the Walk-in-the-Water, (the only steamboat on the lake) to enter safely. This boat had been built at Black Rock, and run to that place, not ever touching at Buffalo; and the very prospect of having a steamboat arrive and depart from Buffalo, was highly encouraging. But while anticipating these benefits, the Walk-in-the-Water was driven on shore a short distance

above Buffalo, while on her last trip, in 1821, and bilged. The engine, boilers and furniture were saved, and there was no doubt that the Steamboat Company would build a new boat, as they had purchased from Fulton's heirs the right to navigate by steam that portion of lake Erie lying within the state, which right was then deemed valid. The citizens of Buffalo, without loss of time, addressed the directors of the company, presenting the advantages that would accrue to them by building their boat at Buffalo. The company immediately on learning their loss, made a contract with Noah Brown & Brothers, of New York, to build a boat at Buffalo, if it could be constructed as cheaply there as at the Rock, and if there could be a certainty of getting the boat out of the creek.

Brown came on early in January, passing on to Black Rock without even reporting himself in Buffalo, nor was his arrival known here until he had agreed to build his boat at the Rock, and engaged the ship carpenters of that place to furnish the timber. The Black Rock contractors, gratified with their success, agreed to accommodate Brown by meeting him at the Mansion House in Buffalo in the evening to execute the contract, which was to be drawn by an attorney in Buffalo, an acquaintance of Brown's. The gentlemen with their securities were punctual in their attendance.

As soon as it was known in Buffalo that the boat was to be built at the Rock, the citizens assembled in the bar-room of the Mansion House, and after spending a few minutes in giving vent to their indignation, it was resolved to have an immediate interview with Brown, (who was in his parlor,) and know why Buffalo had been thus slighted. Perhaps he might yet be induced to change his mind, if the contract were not already signed. The landlord undertook to ascertain this fact, and reported that it was not yet executed. A delegate to wait on Brown was chosen with little ceremony—there was no time to give specific instructions. "Get the boat built here, and we will be bound by your agreement." The delegate had never seen Brown, and on entering his parlor, had to introduce himself. This done he proceeded :

"Mr. Brown, why do you not build your boat at Buffalo, pursuant to the wishes of the company?"

"Why, sir, I arrived in your village while your people were sleeping, and being obliged to limit my stay here to one day, I thought to improve the early part of the morning by commencing my inquiries at Black Rock, and consulting the ship-carpenters residing there, who had aided in building the Walk-in-the-Water. While there I was told that your harbor is all a humbug, and that if I were to build the

boat in Buffalo creek, she could not be got into the lake in the spring, and perhaps never. Besides, the carpenters refused to deliver the timber at Buffalo. Considering the question of where the boat should be built as settled, I proceeded to contract for timber to be delivered, and shall commence building the boat immediately at the Rock."

"Mr. Brown, our neighbors have done us great injury, although they, no doubt, honestly believe what they have said to you about our harbor. Under the circumstances, I feel justified in making you a proposition, which will enable you to comply with the wishes of the Steamboat Company, and do justice to Buffalo, without exposing yourself to loss or blame. The citizens of Buffalo will deliver suitable timber at a quarter less than it will cost you at the Rock, and execute a judgment bond to pay to the Steamboat Company one hundred and fifty dollars for every day's detention of the boat in the creek after the first of May."

"I accept the proposition. When will the papers be made out?"

"To-morrow morning. And if you wish it, a satisfactory sum of money shall now be placed in your hands, to be forfeited if the contract and bond are not executed."

"This, sir, I do not require. I shall leave at ten o'clock this evening, and my friend Moulton will prepare the necessary papers and see them executed."

The judgment bond was signed by nearly all the responsible citizens, and the contract for the timber taken by Wm. A. Carpenter, at the reduced price agreed on. To comply with this contract, both as to time and the quality of timber, required no little energy and good management, but the contractor, who is still a citizen of Buffalo, executed it to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Buffalo having completed a harbor, and established a ship yard, began to assume new life. Brighter prospects opened, and it only remained to secure the termination of the canal at this place, of which there was a fair prospect. David Thomas, an engineer, in the employ of the canal board, had been occupied the preceding summer in making surveys preparatory to a location of the canal from the lake to the mountain ridge. He had spent some time in examining the Niagara river, and Buffalo creek and harbor. He was known to be opposed to the plan of terminating the canal in an artificial basin at the Rock, and it was presumed that he would report decidedly in favor of terminating the canal in Buffalo creek. This encouraged the citizens to send an agent to Albany to represent to the president of the canal board, De Witt Clinton, the fact that a harbor had been completed, and to urge the immediate location of the canal to Buf-



falo. This subject was considered by the board, and the canal report of that year, 1823, contained their decision in favor of Buffalo.

Although this decision was not unexpected, yet it occasioned great rejoicing to the citizens, who, burnt out and impoverished by the war, and disappointed in their just expectations of remuneration from the government, had for years been battling manfully with adversity, cheered on by hopes which were now about to be realized.

While congratulating themselves on the prospect of still better times, the expected flood came, and removing a large body of sand and gravel, opened a wide and deep channel from the creek to the lake. But unfortunately a heavy bank of ice resting on the bottom of the lake, and rising several feet above its surface, had been formed during the winter, extending from the west end of the pier to the shore. This ice bank arrested the current of the creek, forming an eddy along side of the pier, into which the sand and gravel removed by the flood was deposited, filling up the channel for the distance of over three hundred feet, and leaving a little more than three feet water where, before the freshet, there was an average of four and a half feet. This disaster was the more vexatious, as it might have been prevented by a few hours of well directed labor in opening even a small passage through the bank of ice. It was attempted to open a channel through the ice by blasting, but this proving ineffectual, no other means were tried, and it was now feared that the predictions of our Black Rock neighbors were about to be realized.

This obstruction of the harbor produced not only discouragement but consternation. A judgment-bond had been executed, which was a lien upon a large portion of the real estate of the village for the payment of one hundred and fifty dollars per day, from and after the first of May, until the channel could be sufficiently opened to let the steamboat pass into the lake. The payment of this sum, which for the summer would amount to at least twenty-four thousand dollars, could only be avoided by removing the deposit. To form a channel even eight rods wide and nine feet deep would require the removal of not less than six thousand yards of gravel, for which work there was neither an excavator, nor time, skill or money to procure one. The superintendent of the harbor was absent; as soon as the news of the disaster reached him he hastened home, and arriving about the middle of March, a meeting of the citizens concerned was called. It was resolved immediately to attempt the opening of the channel, and a subscription was proposed to defray the expenses which was estimated at one thousand six hundred dollars. The subscription went heavily, only about three hundred dollars were obtained. Although

all were deeply interested, some believed that the duty of removing the obstruction devolved on the harbor company, others had no confidence in the plan of operations proposed, and with many who would cheerfully have contributed, it was difficult to raise money. But without waiting to see how the means was to be provided, preparations were made for commencing the work next morning.

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#### MR. SHARP'S LETTER.

WE give below another letter from our valued correspondent and pioneer in Missouri. Our readers will impatiently anticipate his forthcoming recitals, as well as be pleased with his poetic powers. They will please to repress their smiles at the thought of our poet having been twelve years old in Dunmore's war, when they duly appreciate the fine sentiments they inculcate. We hope his poetic taste will be frequently exerted for our benefit, especially in *historical* poetry.

*Warren County, Mo., June 11th, 1842.*

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

*Dear Sir,*—Your last, dated the 8th, came to hand on the 24th ult. You never fail to cut out some employment for me, without making any allowance for age or infirmity. You leave me no alternative, for you say, "you must;" yes, must is the word, "lose no time in putting down, for the Pioneer, all those reminiscences of your life that will be interesting to our readers." It is true, I could recount many curious incidents which occurred on the frontier settlements of western Virginia, during the war of the revolution, and for several years after, many of which I was a witness of, and an actor in, and others which were currently reported and believed in the country at the time; but I fear my crude style and awkward manner of expressing my ideas, would do an injury to your periodical. However, as you appear so urgent, if you will allow me time to digest and prepare my communications, I will make the attempt. And when you receive them, if they will suit your purpose, you can publish them; and if not, you can pass them by without the fear of giving offense, for I am by no means anxious to appear in print. I shall have to write altogether from memory, and may not at all times be exactly correct as to date, &c. I find you sometimes give us a little poetry, and as an earnest that I will perform my promise, I send you a

specimen of my poetical powers, which must suffice till something better is prepared. If you approve of it, you can place it in the poet's corner.

Would heaven indulge the fond wish of my heart,  
I'd ask neither power nor wealth—  
With all its allurements of beauty and art,  
The world and its grandeur can never impart  
The sweets of contentment and health.

In a little cottage, a garden hard by,  
And an orchard of fruit-bearing trees;  
A site, where no strife or profusion comes nigh,  
With a glass of pure water, to drink when I'm dry,  
I'd enjoy both my freedom and ease.

With books that are useful, selected with taste,  
My principal leisure I'd spend;  
No part of my time I'd imprudently waste,  
On Virtue's rich viands I'd mentally feast,  
Or converse with a sensible friend.

And last, but not least, I would add to all this,  
To insure the enjoyments of life,  
A female companion to heighten my bliss,  
And cheer up my heart with a smile and a kiss—  
Endear'd by the the title of wife.

Her form should be graceful, her mind should be free  
From vain affectation and pride;  
Good sense and good nature in her should agree,  
Her affection exclusively fix'd upon me,  
With the fond yielding blush of a bride.

Thus calmly I'd glide down old Time's silent stream,  
Untainted by folly or crime;  
Resign'd to the mandates of Wisdom supreme,  
Take leave of Mortality's whimsical dream,  
And the empty illusions of Time.

Yours, respectfully,

Jno. S. Williams, Esq.

*Benj. Sharp*

**DR. S. P. HILDRETH.**

It is with gratitude and joy that we again introduce this faithful contributor to our readers. These feelings are heightened by a long and dangerous illness through which he has passed, but from which he has recovered. A report, which we had not the means to doubt the truth of, reached us that he had actually taken his flight to another world, and we had made up our mind to try to get along without him, but in the Divine Providence of the Lord, his life has been spared, and may it long be preserved, not only to delight the readers of the *American Pioneer*, but to perform other uses in society for which his talents and industry eminently qualify him.

We give below a short account of the death of Silver-heels, from his pen, and we promise next month a rare treat from the same source, in a Biographical Sketch of Isaac Williams, a most worthy pioneer. A view of his (Williams') plantation, on the Virginia shore, opposite to Fort Harmer, may be seen accompanying the first number of the *American Pioneer*. We hope many such sketches will grace our pages. They most eminently connect the past with the present, and with the past the future, and do more to make one nation of the whole than any thing else can. They will thus have a more happy influence upon our future national character and prosperity, than the superficial thinker will perhaps be willing to acknowledge. We cannot now promise all of this interesting article in one number, but will give it in not more than two. Meanwhile, for good reasons, excuse us for just saying, that as far as we know, neither Isaac nor the Rev. John Williams were in the most remote degree of our family connexions, excepting that all of the name, as we believe, are descendants of that hardy race of ancient Britons, which neither the arm of Caesar nor the force of Rome could conquer.

**DEATH OF SILVER-HEELS.**

FOR many years after the first settlement of Ohio, the article of marine salt was one of primary importance, as being absolutely necessary in the domestic economy of civilized man. The savage never having been accustomed to its use, can live and enjoy very good health without it; never lying by any great stores of meat, but letting each day provide for itself. If he needed a supply for a journey, or the short interval of summer, when hunting was poor, it was easily preserved by "jerking," or drying over a slow fire. Not so with the white man. Salt was an article of absolute necessity, and he was obliged to bring it across the mountains on pack-horses, for many years after the first settlement of the country, at an expense of six or eight dollars a bushel, even as late as the year 1800. Those immense fountains of brine that now are known to exist deep in the rocky beds below, were then not dreamed of; and it was supposed that the west



would always be dependent on the Atlantic coast for salt, and deeply deplored as a serious drawback on the prosperity of this beautiful region. Although springs of salt water were known in various places, yet they were of so poor and weak a quality as to require from four to six hundred gallons of the water to make a bushel of salt; and when made, it contained so much foreign matter as to render it a very inferior article. Yet as it could be used in place of the imported salt, and saved the borderer's money, at that day not very plenty, it was occasionally resorted to by the settlers, who, assembling in gangs of six or eight persons, with their domestic kettles, pack-horses, and provisions, camped out for a week at a time in the vicinity of the saline. These springs were generally discovered by hunters, and were at remote points from the settlements. One of the most noted in this part of Ohio, was on Salt creek, near the present town of Chandlersville, in Muskingum county. About the year 1798, a few years after the close of the Indian war, a party of men from the settlement on Olive-green creek, twenty-five miles from the saline, had assembled at this spot for the purpose of manufacturing a little salt. While they were occupied at this business, and cracking their rude jokes, a noted old warrior, well known to the borderers in early days by the name of Silver-heels, who was hunting near the spring, called at their camp. During times of peace, the intercourse of the Indians with the whites was free and unrestrained, and it was not uncommon for them to hunt in company with perfect confidence and good fellowship. This Indian had formerly lived a few miles south-west of this place, on the Muskingum river, near a rapid, or ripple, well known to all keel-boat men on that stream, by the name of "Silver-heels," and which it retains to this day.

At that period whisky was considered as much an article of necessity, for the support of man, and especially for those any way exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather, or engaged in any laborious employment, as meat or bread. Temperance societies were then unknown; and a person who did not offer his neighbor or friend a dram, even if casually calling at his house, was thought a stingy fellow, and as much despised, as he would now be who should make such an offer and call it hospitality. The party of salt makers had not neglected a supply of the favorite beverage of the day, and knowing an Indian's habitual relish for whisky, offered it to him with a liberal hand. After taking a few drinks, the spirit of the old warrior was aroused, and as is their custom, he began to relate his war exploits, saying that in his various battles, and marauding excursions on the frontiers, he had taken the scalps of sixteen whites. Amongst others,

during the late war, he stated he had taken that of an old man, a little below the mouth of Olive-green creek, on the Muskingum river, not far from the block-house. This scalp he minutely described as having two crowns, or spiral turns of the hair on the top of the head, and that by carefully dividing it he had converted it into two scalps, and sold them at Detroit for fifty dollars each. He said the old man was gathering the fruit of the May-apple, and that he had the bosom of his hunting shirt full of them at the time he shot him. He also described him as being armed with a musket with iron bands around it, but being in haste at the time, expecting a pursuit from the men in the block-house, and the gun of no use to him, he had hidden it in the hollow of a fallen tree, a few rods higher up the river. The salt makers listened with intense interest to this portion of the old warrior's feats, as several of them had been not only acquainted with Abel Sherman, but lived with him in the block-house at the time, and all were familiar with the fact of his being killed by the Indians in the manner, and at the place, described by Silver-heels. It so chanced that a son of Mr. Sherman was one of the party; and to satisfy himself of the truth of the statement, he returned directly home. On making search as directed, he found in the rotten wood and earth of the decayed tree, an old musket. The stock was much wasted and the iron corroded, but sufficient was left to identify it as the gun of his father; thus proving the truth of the Indian's statement, that he was personally concerned in the death of Abel Sherman. A few days after this, the dead body of Silver-heels was found by a hunter lying in the ashes of his camp fire, pierced by a rifle bullet. Many years have passed away since this transaction; but the ripple which bears his name still remains, and will continue to be known long after these events are forgotten.

*A. P. Hitarch*

P. S. This article was written before the late improvements on the Muskingum were made. A dam at the mouth of Bald Eagle creek, just below "Silver-heels' Ripple," I am sorry to say, has obliterated this interesting rapid. Mr. Hackewelder says that the old warrior, Silver-heels, was killed on the way from Coshocton to Detroit by some unknown enemy. Whether there were more than one Indian of this name, I do not know; or it is possible that my informant may have been mistaken as to the proper name of the Indian, but the facts narrated I have reason to believe are correct.

## WILL'S LETTER.

WE congratulate our readers upon the reception of such valuable documents as the following letter, and the journal of which Mr. Will speaks. They are indeed truly interesting, and will be published entire; they will have a tendency to settle some things that are considered uncertain. We shall much indeed regret if Mr. Will cannot be prevailed upon to write out more of his pioneer soldier experience. It is our intention almost to besiege him for it. When our readers look at his signature, and are informed that every line and letter in the whole composition is fully equal, and ready to go into the printer's hands, without the slightest alteration, they will feel confident that he ought to do his country that service.

We look upon such historical lore as he is in possession of, like gold and diamonds on the brink of a river, which if not soon collected, will by the current soon be carried to the bed of the ocean and lost forever. The journal of lieutenant Boyer will be commenced next month.

*Adelphi, May 25th, 1842.*

JOHN S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

*Dear Sir*—The first opportunity that offers of any of my neighbors going to Chillicothe, I will send the old journal I have in my possession to Mr. Ely. It is a journal that contains the daily occurrence of the most important transactions during the campaign of general Anthony Wayne, commencing at Greenville the 28th day of July, 1794, and ending the 2d November following. You will find some things contained therein very interesting, particularly many of the general orders, and the correspondence between general Wayne and the commander of the British garrison at Fort Maumee or Miami, which took place next day after the general battle on the 20th August, 1794. You may rely on the truth of all that is contained in the journal. I was an eye-witness to all that is stated therein. If I had the talent for writing, I could inform you of many transactions that took place in the army; (I joined Wayne's army at Pittsburgh, in August, 1792, and continued therein until I was discharged in Detroit, in April, 1798,) but I am not qualified to write a history of that war.

I will give you a short statement of some of the principal movements of that army. The regular troops destined for the army to be put under the command of general Wayne, were concentrated at Pittsburgh in August and September, '92. On the 12th day of December the army moved down the river about twenty miles and erected huts on the bank of the Ohio, and there remained until the 28th day of April, 1793, when it descended the river in numerous flat boats, containing the troops, munitions of war, provisions, and not less than twenty boat loads of hay for the use of the dragoons, and

arrived at Cincinnati on the 5th day of May, '93; formed our camp at the lower end of the small village of Cincinnati, and called the camp "Hobson's Choice." The army remained there until September following, when it again took up its line of march and arrived at what was afterwards called Fort Greenville, and commenced building huts for winter quarters. On the 24th of December, 1793, general Wayne marched with about one thousand men to the ground where general St. Clair was defeated, and erected a fort on that ground, which was called Fort Recovery. We arrived on that ground on Christmas day, and pitched our tents on the battle ground. Six hundred skulls were gathered up and buried; when we went to lay down in our tents at night, we had to scrape the bones together and carry them out to make our beds. After the fort was completed, one company of artillery and one company of riflemen were left in the fort, and the balance returned to Greenville. Nothing particular took place until the last day of June and first day of July, 1794. The Indians attacked Fort Recovery, but were repulsed with considerable loss on both sides. Major McMahan, (a braver man never existed,) was killed; he was much regretted by all persons in the army, officers and soldiers. On the 28th of July, 1794, the army left Greenville on the campaign. An account of that campaign, you will find in the journal sent you, written by a lieutenant Boyer. The treaty with the Indians took place at Greenville in the summer of 1795. In the early part of the summer of 1796, the army, with the exception of a small force, left Greenville for the purpose of taking possession of the American forts, to wit: Maumee, Detroit, Mackinac, &c., that had still remained in the hands of the English. If I mistake not, general Wayne left the army at Detroit early in December for his residence in Pennsylvania, but got no further than Erie, where he died.

I forgot to say in the proper place, that in the battle of the 20th August, '94, I received a severe wound through my body, which rendered me unfit for actual service for about two months.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.

*Geo. Will*

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THE treaty between France and America was concluded February 6th, 1778, by which the former agreed to join arms with the latter against the British, and occasioned prodigious joy in the army at Valley Forge, and over the whole country.



**HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.**

It is with satisfaction that we are made acquainted with the various efforts that are making to collect and preserve the history of the country, and delighted will we be, if in any way we can serve the purposes of any man or society of men, in promoting such an object. We offer the pages of the *American Pioneer* to any such society now formed, or hereafter to be formed.

By societies of the kind, having one organ of communication, they become as it were, one grand operative in the great work. Let the condition of the European nations in relation to their early history, admonish us to be diligent in respect to ours. The darkness in which their ancient history is shrouded, was of necessity from the want of such facilities as we have at command, and which will leave us without excuse. One word to Societies. Beware of receiving as members such persons as thirst for fame, without being willing to acquire it by industry. They will neither do much themselves, nor be willing to see others do it, unless they can be sure to get the credit of it. With ardent desires for success to all such efforts, we introduce to the notice of our readers the

**HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORWALK SEMINARY.**

THE attention of the patrons of Norwalk Seminary, and the friends of Science generally, is respectfully invited to the objects contemplated by this Society. The Society was organized in the fall of 1841. It is believed that many of the citizens of Ohio are now in possession of interesting and important historical facts and incidents, which, though now fresh in the memory of our fathers, if not collected and preserved in some depository, may in a few years be entirely lost. As such facts will constitute essential materials for the future historian of the state, the collection of them will, we trust, meet with the approbation and aid of a generous public. We rejoice at the publication of the "*American Pioneer*," a monthly periodical recently established at Chillicothe, and devoted especially to this subject.

The subject of Agricultural Geology is now attracting the attention and eliciting the efforts of the first minds in the nation. Ohio is an agricultural state, and the improvement of any department of knowledge connected therewith, must be regarded as a desirable object. The Society hope to engage the attention of those whose lectures or communications will prove a valuable acquisition. It is presumed also, that many will take pleasure in presenting specimens of minerals, and various natural curiosities to augment the cabinet which has been commenced. A room in the Seminary has been appropriated expressly for the purpose of its safe keeping and exhibition, where all donations and contributions will be faithfully recorded and carefully preserved. Contributions either of Historical and Geological facts, or of curiosities for the Cabinet, may be forwarded to Rev. A. NELSON, President of the Society, or to H. DWIGHT, Secretary.

## CONSTITUTION.

ART. I. This Association shall be called the Historical and Geological Society of Norwalk Seminary.

ART. II. The object of this Society shall be to collect facts and incidents relating to the early history of Ohio, to advance the science of Geology, particularly as connected with the resources of the state, and to establish a cabinet of Indian relics, minerals, shells, and other natural curiosities.

ART. III. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, and a Corresponding and Recording Secretary, elected annually by ballot on the first Wednesday in July.

ART. IV. The officers shall constitute a Board of Managers for the transaction of business, who, besides their peculiar duties, shall have discretionary power to call meetings of the Society, and to take such measures to promote the objects of the Society, as they shall deem proper, not inconsistent with this constitution. The charge of the cabinet shall devolve upon the Secretary.

ART. V. Any person interested in the objects of the Society, may become a member by the nomination of the Board, through the President, and a vote of two-thirds present at any regular meeting. Honorary members may be elected in the same manner.

ART. VI. Every donation shall be labeled with the name and residence of the donor, and in the event of the dissolution of the Society within five years, shall be returned, if demanded, to the donor, otherwise they shall be the property of the Seminary.

ART. VII. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds present at any regular meeting.

NORWALK, *Huron Co., O., April 12, 1842.*

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*War Department, Oct. 31, 1803.*

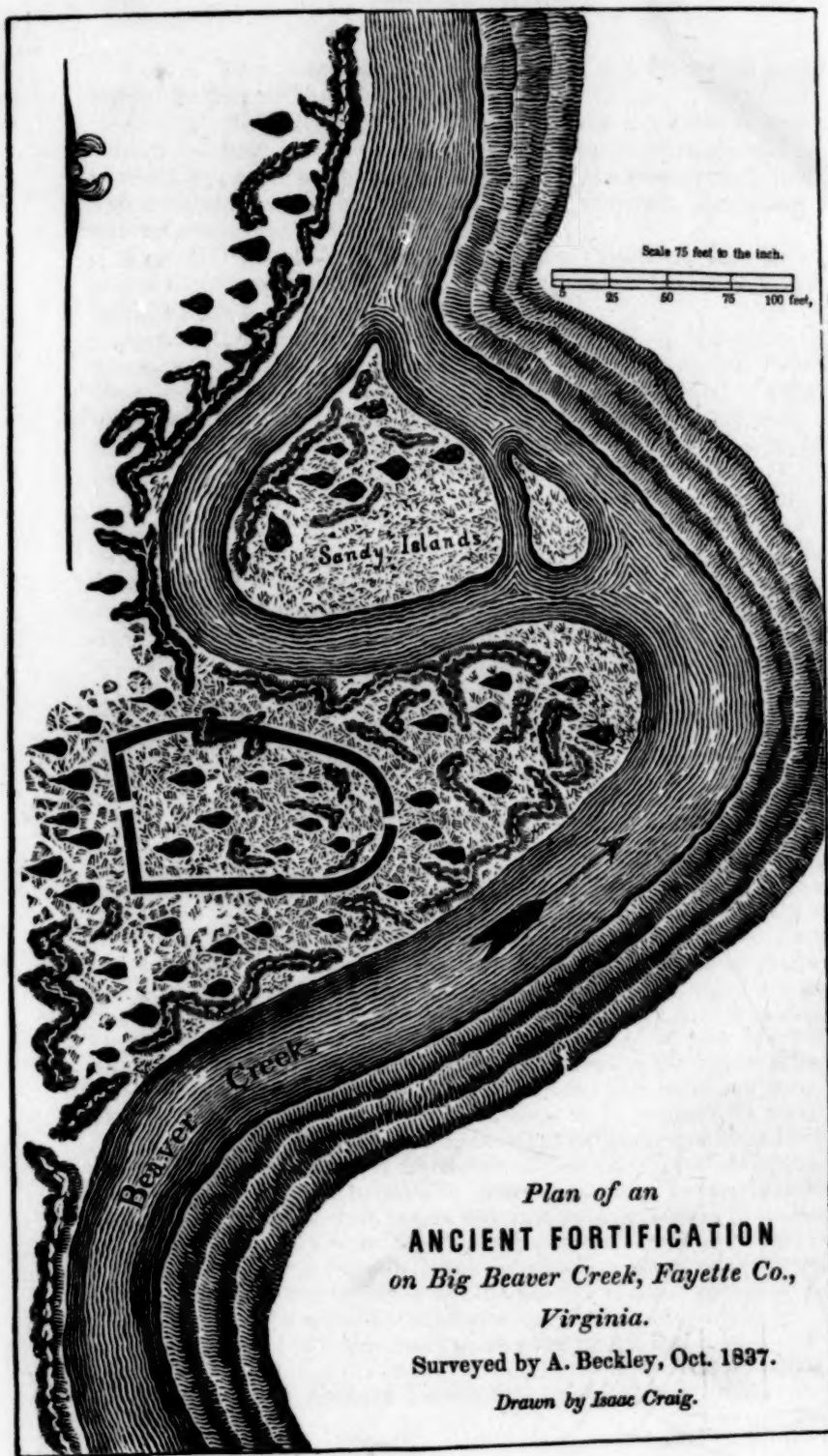
Sir—There being reason to suspect that the officers of the Spanish government at New Orleans, may decline or refuse to give possession of the country of Louisiana, ceded to the United States by the French Republic, and which Congress have by law authorized the President of the United States to take possession of; and the President having judged it expedient to pursue such measures as will ensure the possession, I have therefore been directed by the President of the United States to request your excellency to assemble, with the least possible delay, five hundred of the militia of the state of Ohio, including a suitable number of officers, and cause the same to be formed into a regiment of eight companies, to be engaged to serve four months, unless sooner discharged, to be mustered in companies and ready to march, if called, by the 20th December, at farthest. After having been so mustered in companies, by suitable persons appointed by your excellency, the men may return to their homes, but must hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice. Each officer and soldier will be entitled to pay from the day they shall receive orders and march to join their respective regiments, until discharged. They will be entitled to the same pay as regular troops in the service of the United States.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, &c.

H. DEARBOURN.

*To His Excellency, EDWARD TIFFIN, Gov. of the State of Ohio.*





ANCIENT FORTIFICATION IN VIRGINIA.